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Regenerative and Cellular Sciences

Citation for published version:

Harmon, S 2009, 'Regenerative and Cellular Sciences: An Interactive Workshop - Foetal Stem Cells: The Science' Argentina Stem Cell Commission & GET: Social Values Project, "Regenerative and Cellular Sciences: An Interactive Workshop", Buenos Aires, Argentina, 18/08/09 - 18/08/09, .

Link:

[Link to publication record in Edinburgh Research Explorer](#)

Document Version:

Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Publisher Rights Statement:

© Harmon, S. (2009). Regenerative and Cellular Sciences: An Interactive Workshop - Foetal Stem Cells: The Science. Poster session presented at Argentina Stem Cell Commission & GET: Social Values Project, "Regenerative and Cellular Sciences: An Interactive Workshop", Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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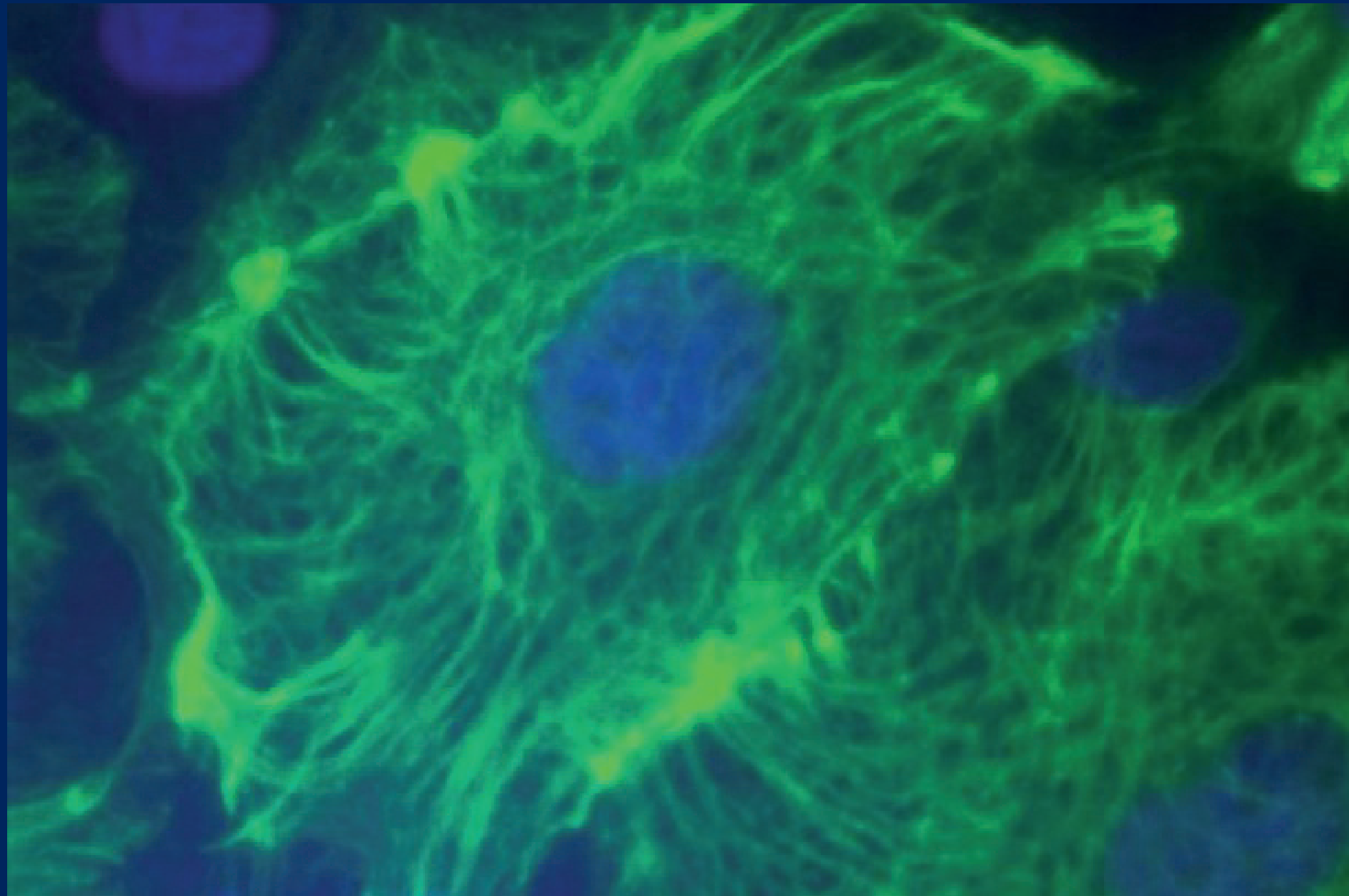
Regenerative & Cellular Sciences

An Interactive Workshop

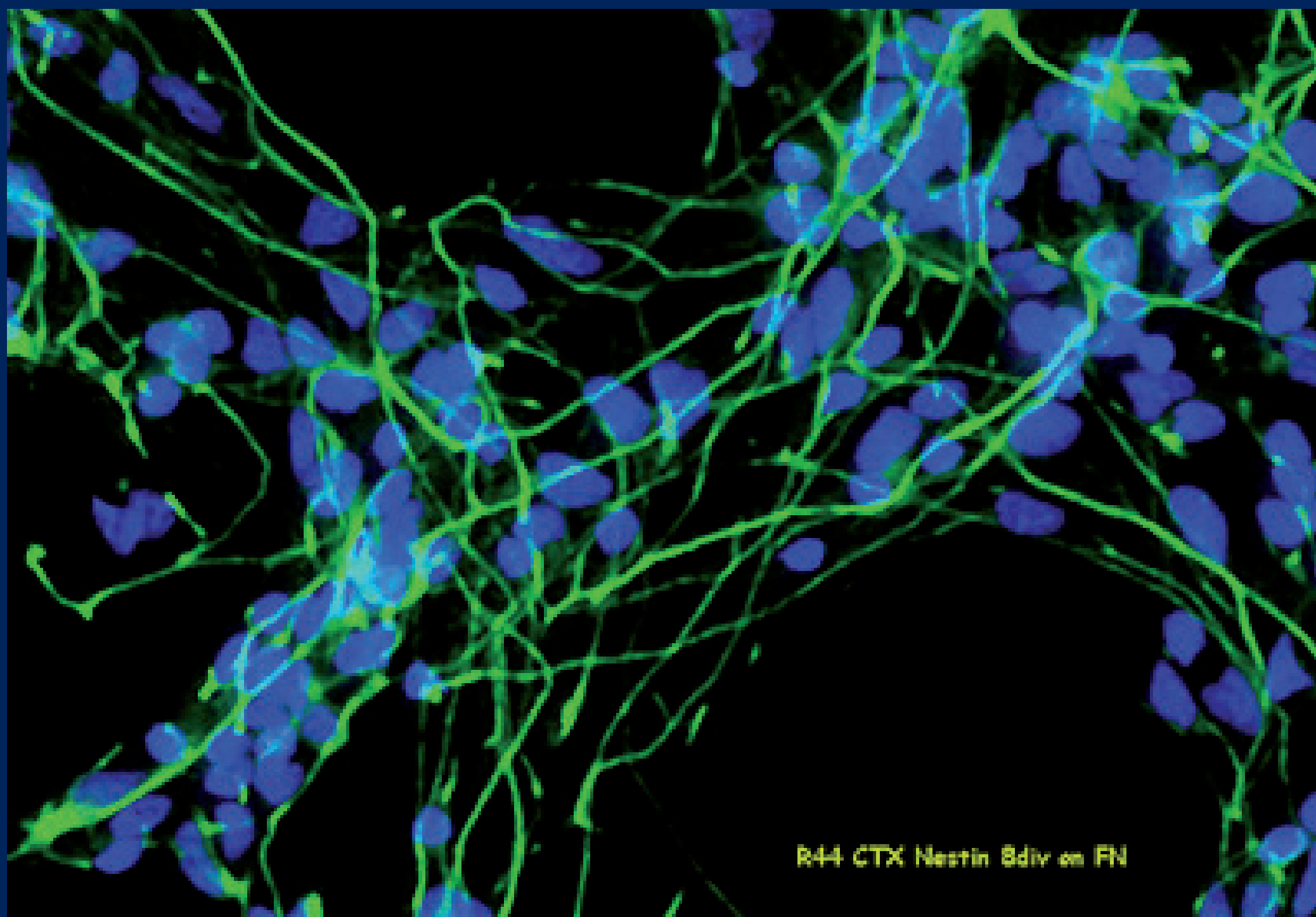
FOETAL STEM CELLS: THE SCIENCE

WHAT ARE FOETAL STEM CELLS?

Foetal stem cells are cells taken from aborted fetuses or from umbilical cord blood. They are multipotent and have the ability to develop into a limited number of specialised cell types.



Source: S Minger



Source: J Sinden

THE VALUE OF FOETUSES

Foetal stem cells are less well understood than stem cells from other sources.

Comparative research with different types of stem cells is needed in order to better understand what stem cells are, what different stem cells can achieve, and what mechanisms make them work.

Research on foetal stem cells could facilitate understanding of embryonic stem cells.



Source: S. Harmon

FOETUS v. OTHER SOURCES

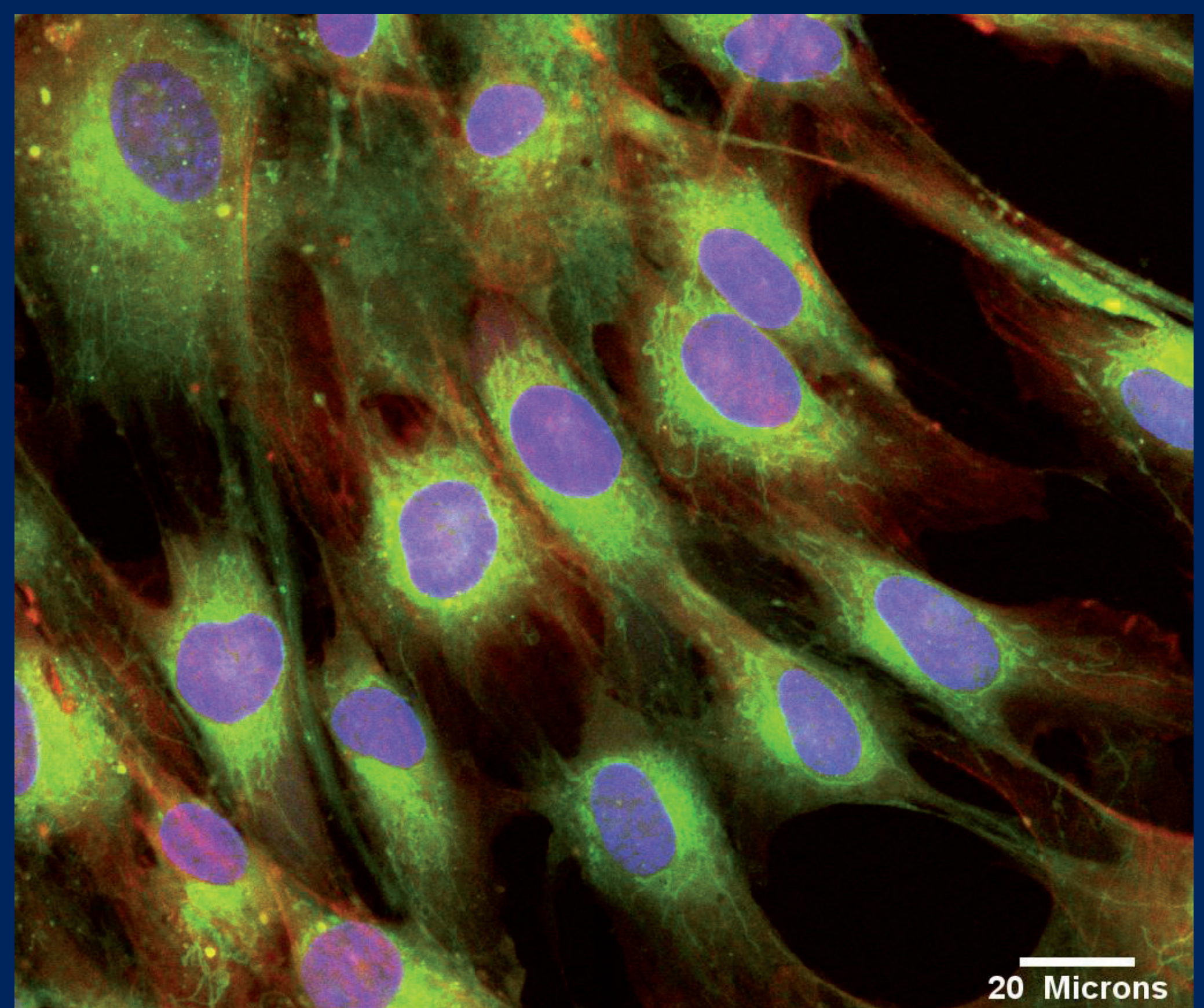
Many people are neither for nor against foetal stem cell research; they have no fixed view.

Good scientific reasons must always underlie the use of fetuses: 'I would have to be convinced that there was particular strong benefits of it being a foetus rather than an adult like myself, who can make an informed decision to consent to donate some of my tissue ... '

[UK Social Scientist]

One's position may change as illness or disability is experienced: '[A] doctor in China ... said he had the answer to Parkinson's and motor neuron [problems, using foetal stem cells]. You had some on the very religious right ... [who] were against abortion and experiments on foetuses and [had been in a car accident] and ... as soon as they found themselves disabled they were on the first plane to China ... '

[UK Spinal Injury Group]



Source: CET